STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND,

OR

TASMANIA,

FROM THE DATE OF ITS FIRST OCCUPATION BY THE BRITISH NATION IN 1804 TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1823.

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, BY HUGH M. HULL; AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, KNT., GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF OF TASMANIA.



Tasmania:

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STATISTICAL TABLES, TASMANIA,

1804 TO 1823 INCLUSIVE.

Note.—There are so few official books and papers extant, containing any account of the rise and progress of the Colony, that I have deemed it advisable to depart from the usual form of classing each subject under a separate Table, but have divided the account into statements of the population, agricultural operations, wages, prices of provisions, stock, &c.—with notes of any remarkable event happening in each year.

H. M. H.

1804.

February 19. Governor Collins landed in Sullivan's Cove from Port Phillip, with a party of Marines and Convicts; and on the 20th February issued his first Garrison Order in Tasmania.

It appears that the ship Ocean sailed from Port Phillip on the 27th January, 1804, that being the date of the last Garrison Order issued by Colonel Collins, and which is headed, "General Orders, ship Ocean, Port Phillip, 27th January, 1804." In a Garrison Order, dated Port Philip, 31st December, 1803, Colonel Collins, in ordering the loading of the ship Ocean to be continued by all hands on the Sunday, stated "that it has never been his wish to make the Sabbath any other than a day of devotion and rest, but circumstances compel him to employ it in labour. In this the whole are concerned, since the sooner we are enabled to leave this unpromising and unproductive country, the sooner shall we be able to reap the advantages and enjoy the comforts of a more fertile spot." He goes on to say:—"He cannot but pity the delusion which some of the Prisoners labour under, in thinking that they can exist when deprived of the assistance of Government: their madness will be manifest to themselves when they shall feel, too late, that they have wrought their own ruin. After those who have absconded he shall make no further search, confident that they must soon return, or perish by famine."

(These runaways were Buckley and his party, of whom the former was discovered alive among the Aborigines in 1836, after a period of 32 years.)

The Marines landed in Tasmania were:—1 Subaltern, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, 1 Drummer, and 20 Privates.

The Reverend Mr. Knopwood, Chaplain; Mr. Bowden, Assistant Surgeon; G. P. Harris, Surveyor; A. W. H. Humphrey, Mineralogist, were also landed in February, 1804.

Vessels arrived.—One.

Rations.—The rations issued to all the people were as follows:—Beef, 7 lbs., or pork, 4 lbs.; flour, 7 lbs.; sugar, 6 ozs.—per week.

To women, two-thirds; children above five years, half ration; infants, quarter ration; and the rations were issued on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The Soldiers were each allowed half a pint of rum daily.

The rations of Convicts who did not attend Divine service were stopped.

Wages.—Convicts were lent out at 2s. 6d. a day if labourers, or 3s. 6d. a day if mechanics; while 10s. an acre was charged for reaping wheat by the Convicts.

Prices of Provisions.—Kangaroo meat taken into the Commissariat Store (or tent) at 8d. per pound,—the Commissary's tent being pitched on Hunter's Island (now the Old Wharf). Flour, £112 a ton. Pork, 1s. a pound. Beef, 9d. a pound.

Scurvy existed in the Settlement.

A Garrison Order was issued that no fires were to be kept up after 9 p.m.

Foreigners not allowed to become Settlers without permission.

May 3, 1804.—First hostile collision between the Settlers and the Aborigines: as many as 50 of the latter killed.

1805.

Provisions became very scarce, so much so that the Rations issued to the Settlers, Troops, and Convicts were as follows:—

PER WEEK.	JANUARY.	MAY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	OCTOBER.
Beef, salt ? or Pork, salt ? Flour Wheat Sugar Wheat-meal Rice	6 ,,	2 lbs. 10 oz. 6 lbs. 6 ,, none —	rg of ablieft on	none 2 lbs. 10 oz. 3 lbs. none 1 lb. none 3 lbs.	4 lbs. 10 oz. or 2 lbs. none 6 lbs. 8 oz. none none

Kangaroos were boiled down into Soup, and issued a quart at a time, at the Colonial Hospital.

VESSELS ARRIVED.—Two.

The Aborigines became troublesome, and attacked the Camp near the present Hospital; and also at Risdon, where 40 or 50 were killed.

1806.

Great scarcity of Provisions still. Rations issued as follows:—

PER WEEK.	JANUARY.	MAY.	JULY.
Wheat	5 lbs. 6 ,, 4 ,, 6 oz.	5 lbs. 6 ,, none 6 oz. 2 lbs. 4 ,,	5 lbs. 6 ,, none 6 oz. none 8 lbs.

WHEAT was 25s. a bushel.

Bread, 8d. a pound.

BAKERIES .- Four.

KANGAROO MEAT taken into Store at 1s. a pound.

Grain prohibited from being used for brewing.

Bread.—None finer than household bread ordered to be baked.

HEMP-SEED offered to the Settlers for cultivation.

Whale-fishing in Ralph's Bay. Mr. Collins's whalers not allowed to come into Camp without a Pass.

Soldiers ordered to dress in musquito trowsers,—Officers in nankeen breeches and boots.

VESSELS ARRIVED.—Two.

One Prisoner executed.

300 Aborigines seen in one party at Brown's River by Mr. Kelly.

Wheat crop failed. Wheat £4 a bushel. Garrison Order that Settlers shall not charge more than £4.

RATIONS as follows:-

PER WEEK.	JANUARY.	AUGUST.	OCTOBER.
Beef ?	7 lbs.	none	none
Pork S Wheat Rice	4 ,, 5 ,, 4 ,,	2 lbs. 5 ,, 6 ,,	none none 6 lbs.
Sugar Kangaroo Maize	6 oz.	none 7 lbs.	none 12 lbs. 2 ,,

Sentinels stationed in the fields to protect the wheat.

BRIDGE ERECTED over the Town Creek in Hobart Town.

Vessels arrived.—Five; one of them (the Lady Nelson) with some of the Norfolk Island Settlers.

The first white man murdered by the natives in this year.

1808.

DESERTION rife—£10 a head offered for the capture of the offenders.

Settlers allowed to pay their debts to the Crown in wheat, at 15s. a bushel; maize at 10s. a bushel.

Rations, as follows:—Beef, 7 lbs. or Pork 4 lbs.; flour 4 lbs.; maize 10 lbs.; ditto in lieu of sugar, 2 lbs.—per week.

In July all the wheat and maize was gone, so 12 lbs. of barley was issued.

In August the beef and pork were expended, so kangaroo meat was issued instead.

In October the barley was all gone, so $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. a week of rice was issued instead.

PRICES OF PRODUCE:—Wheat, 21s. a bushel; barley, 15s. ditto; maize, 10s. ditto; potatoes, 4d. per lb.

Prices:—Pork, 1s. 9d. per lb.; kangaroo, 1s. ditto.

1 Vessel arrived—1 sailed: tonnage not stated.

Slop clothing issued to the Settlers.

Cargo of Sugar arrived from Bengal, and issued to all persons in June.

Persons leaving the Colony ordered to give ten days' notice of their intention to do so.

1809.

The Records of the Colony for this year are all lost, with the exception of one Garrison Order Book.

In 1835, the compiler, being a witness in a case before the Land Commissioners, heard Mr. M., who was once a Convict Clerk in the Secretary's Office, give the following evidence:—

"That he was aware that on the night of Governor Collins's death, 24th March, 1810, Mr. —— and Mr. —— (names given by Mr. M.), went over to Government House, and in the Governor's Office, for purposes best known to themselves, destroyed all the Official Documents by fire."

His evidence has some weight from the fact that no book, with the above exception, no newspaper nor document, of the year 1809, can be found among the Official Records of the Colony.

Two vessels arrived. One sailed. Tonnage not stated.

Rations:—7 lbs. beef or 4 lbs. pork; 10 lbs. wheat, and 6 ozs. sugar, when any was in store.

In October all the grain was expended; 7 lbs. kangaroo meat were issued instead. Prices:—Barley, 15s. a bushel.

Seed wheat and barley issued in March and May to the Settlers on loan.

31st March.—The ex-Governor Bligh arrived in H. M. Ship *Porpoise* from Sydney.

6th December.—All communication with the *Porpoise* forbidden by Garrison Order. 11th December.—The *Queue* ordered to be cut off the soldiers' heads.

1810.

Governor Collins died 24th March, 1810, age 57.

Newspapers.—The *Derwent Star*, published every fortnight. Subscription 2s. each copy, or 10s. a quarter. (No copy can be found in the Colony.)

Governor Bligh returned to New South Wales after his forcible removal from his Government.

The 102nd Regiment relieved at Launceston by detachment of 73rd from Sydney.

Two Convicts hanged. One murder committed.

Vessels arrived 11. Sailed 10.

Sixty Convicts arrived from Sydney.

Prices of Provisions:—Beef, 1s. 6d. per lb.; mutton, 1s. 6d. ditto; potatoes, 2d. ditto; fowls, 5s. each; tea, 12s. per lb.; sugar, 10d. ditto; rum, 15s. per gallon; wheat, £1 1s. per bushel; barley, 9s. ditto.

The Norfolk Island Settlers removed to Van Diemen's Land,—stated to be about 1100 souls.

Rations:—3 lbs. salt pork, or $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. salt beef; 10 lbs. wheat.

Criminals, with their prosecutors and witnesses, sent up to Sydney for trial.

1811.

VESSELS ARRIVED 10. SAILED 9.

ACRES IN WHEAT 1500.

Population stated by Governor Macquarie to be nearly 1500.

Three Criminals executed.

Mount Nelson Signal Station established.

Marriages in Launceston 26.

1812.

VESSELS ARRIVED 10. SAILED 14.

Price of Rum 13s. a quart; Gin, ditto.

The Cyclops sailed for Sydney with a cargo of wheat grown in the Colony.

Major Geils appointed Commandant of the Settlement of Hobart Town; and Dr. Bowden, Surgeon.

Major Gordon appointed Commandant of Port Dalrymple, or Launceston.

1813.

Ports opened to commerce June, 1813.

Governor Davey arrived 23rd February.

The Aborigines come into the Camp for food; and a Proclamation was issued by Governor Davey to treat them with kindness.

VESSELS ARRIVED 4. SAILED 3.

Twenty-eight Marines disbanded, and each granted land—80 acres if single; 150 if married, with 10 additional acres for each child.

Prices of Grain and Meat regulated by Garrison Orders—Wheat, 8s. a bushel; Beef, Mutton, and Pork, 7d. a pound.

Sale of Gunpowder prohibited without the special sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor, April, 1813.

1814.

RACES at New Town established.

Aborigines fed as paupers by Reverend R. Knopwood.

Price of Wheat taken into store, 10s. a bushel.

Exportation of Grain prohibited.

1815.

April 5.—Colonel Davey proclaims Martial Law in Van Diemen's Land, in consequence of the awful extent of bushranging. Revoked in October, 1815.

The Aborigines killed in great numbers, so much so as to call for Proclamations against the cruelty.

Two men murdered.

Duty of 7s. a gallon levied on all Spirits.

An execution of Criminals took place in May, and three executions in June, on Hunter's Island.

Court of Civil Jurisdiction, and Deputy Judge Advocate, appointed.

Kangaroo Dogs ordered to be destroyed under a penalty of £50.

Divine Service performed at Government House on Sundays, weather permitting.

1816.

Prices of Provisions.—Bread, 10d. per lb.; beef, 9d. ditto; mutton, 9d. ditto; sugar, 1s. ditto; tea, 12s. ditto; soap, 1s. 6d. ditto; tobacco, 7s. ditto.

PRODUCE.—Wheat, 10s. a bushel.

Population—						
	County	Cornwall	County	Buckin	gham.	Total.
Free men		76 .	 	304		380
Free women		29 .	 	196		225
Children		52 .	 	375		427
Male Convicts		31 .	 	303		334
Female ditto		23 .	 	52		75
Children of Convicts			 	20		20
						1461

Land in cultivation.—County Cornwall: Wheat, 964 acres; barley, 44 ditto; peas, 5 ditto; potatoes, 41 ditto.

Horses, 34; cattle, 1956; sheep, 20,501.

No returns of Buckingham County.

VESSELS ARRIVED 11. SAILED 4.

First Emigrant ship, the Adamant, arrived in September.

182 persons were receiving rations from the Stores in Hobart Town. Of these 94 men and 13 women were Norfolk Island settlers.

Post Office, Hobart Town, established.

Flour Mills erected at Clarence Plains and Sorell.

Old Wellington Bridge completed.

Van Diemen's Land Gazette established.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS.

			d.			s.	
Bread, per lb	0	0	10	Butter, per lb	0	6	0
Beef. ditto	0	0	9	Tobacco, ditto	0	6	0
Mutton, ditto	-0	- 0	9	Pepper, ditto	0	2	3
Sugar, ditto	0	0	10	Wheat, per bushel	0	10	0
Tea, ditto	0	15	0	Potatoes, per ton	12	0	0
Soap, ditto	0	1	0	Brandy, per gallon	1	7	0
Rice, ditto							

Reaping per acre, 10s.

Stock Returns.—County of Buckingham only: Horses, 188; cattle, 9868; sheep, 76,991; pigs, 1552.

POPULATION.—County of Buckingham only returned. Stated generally to be 3114 souls, of whom 2554 are on Hobart side; 560 on Launceston side. 200 of these were soldiers. Free men, 342; free women, 195; children, 334; free servants, 65; Convicts in private service, 106. Aborigines estimated at 7000.

Land in cultivation.—(County of Buckingham only returned.) Wheat, 2767 acres; barley, 138; peas and beans, 94; potatoes, 197.

Vessels arrived 26. Sailed 20. Tonnage not given.

Murders committed 6.

Bushrangers shot 3.

Aborigines protected by Proclamation.

WEEKLY Post established between Hobart Town and Launceston.

CRIMINALS sent up to Sydney for trial and execution.

Foundation stone of St. David's Church laid in February, 1817.

One pound of fresh meat and half a pint of spirits issued to every Government employée on the King's and Queen's birthdays.

The first Convict Ship arrived direct from England in September.

Governor Sorell arrived. Colonel Davey sailed. Government House, Hobart Town, completed.

20,000 bushels of wheat exported to Sydney.

Numerous robberies by bushrangers.

1818.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS.

	£	S.	d.		£	S	d
Bread, per pound	0	0	6	Flour, per ton	37	0	0
Beef, ditto	0	0	5	Fowls, per pair	0	3	0
Mutton, ditto	0	0	5	Ducks, each	0	6	0
Sugar, ditto	0	1	0	Eggs, per dozen	0	9	0
Soap, ditto	0	2	6	Nutmegs, each	0	0	0
Butter, ditto	0	5	0	Milk, per quart	0	0	6
Pepper, ditto	0	10	0	Sicilian Wine, per dozen	1	10	0
Wheat, per bushel	0	10	0	Gin and Brandy, per gallon	1	9	6
Barley, ditto	0	6	0	Mustard, per pound	0	5	0
Potatoes, per ton	6	0	0	Glue, ditto	0	5	0

POPULATION —Free men, 541; free women, 223; children, 395; male Convicts, 1779; female Convicts, 239; children of Convicts, 63; total, 3240.

Land in cultivation.—Wheat, 5049 acres; barley, 214 ditto; peas and beans, $148\frac{1}{2}$ ditto; potatoes, 268 ditto; total, $5679\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

LIVE STOCK IN THE COLONY.—Horses, 267; horned cattle, 12,356; sheep, 127,883.

VESSELS ARRIVED 25. SAILED 19,

Murders committed 2.

Criminals executed 3.

Fifteen public houses in the County of Buckingham.

Divine Service performed under the Verandah at the Military Barracks.

Whale seen in Sullivan's Cove.

Wages of Convicts.—Male, £10; female, £7.

Mulgrave Battery commenced.

1819.

Prices of Provisions.—Bread, 4d. per pound; wheat, 10s. per bushel; tobacco, 3s. per pound; milk, 6d. per quart.

Population (according to the Muster Roll taken by Commissary Hull).—Free men, 829; free women, 288; children, 344; male Convicts, 2666; female ditto, 263; children of Convicts, 21; total, 4411.

Land in cultivation.—Wheat, 7292 acres; barley, 316 ditto; peas and beans, 263 ditto; potatoes, 459 ditto; total, 8330.

LIVE STOCK.—Horses, 363; horned cattle, 23,124; sheep, 172,128.

VESSELS ARRIVED 26. SAILED 26.

Children at Public Schools 164.

Supreme Court first held in Hobart Town.

One man killed by Aborigines. One murder.

One Bushranger shot. One Criminal executed.

Heavy flood in Hobart Town Creek, October. Argyle-street bridge washed away.

Meat exported to Sydney.

Commissioner Bigge arrived, November.

Wheat exported to the value of £4000.

Duties estimated at £5000, including the Naval Officer's per-centage for collecting them.

Magistrates.—Eight; one being the Commandant, Launceston; one Chaplain; two Commissaries; one Police Magistrate; three private gentlemen,—the Governor, Judge, and Deputy Judge Advocate being Justices ex officio.

The Road from Hobart Town to Launceston was 160 miles long, owing to the windings of the route followed.

CIVIL COURT, called the Lieutenant-Governor's Court, consisting of Deputy Judge Advocate Abbott and two respectable inhabitants appointed by the Governor from time to time. No appeal from its decision, which in money cases was limited to £50. All higher or criminal cases sent to Sydney for trial.

1820.

				Provisions.			
	£	S.	d.		£	S.	d.
Bread, per pound	0	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Hams, per pound	0	2	0
				Cheese, ditto			
Wheat, per bushel	0	8	0	Fowls, per pair	0	3	0
Potatoes, per ton				Ducks, each			
Sugar, per pound	0	0	9	Eggs, per dozen	0	2	1
Butter, ditto							
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POPULATION.—Free men, 1009; free women, 510; children, 897; male Convicts, 2585; female Convicts, 370; children of Convicts, 29; total, 5400.

Land in cultivation.—(County of Cornwall only returned.)—Wheat, 2982; barley, 115; peas, 18; potatoes, 63.

LIVE STOCK.—(County of Cornwall only.)—Horses, 111; horned cattle, 6889; sheep, 42,003.

Vessels arrived 41. Sailed 36.

Bushranger shot.

Executions 2.

Male Convicts arrived 965. Females 120.

43,917 pounds salted meat exported to Sydney, being the produce of this Settlement.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS, &c.

	£	s.	d.				d.
Beef, per pound	0	0	6	Soap, per pound	0	1	6
Mutton, ditto	0	0	6	Butter, ditto	0	4	0
Flour, per barrel	3	0	0	Tobacco, ditto	0	6	0
Sugar, per pound	0	0	8	Pepper, ditto	0	2	0
Tea, per chest	20	0	0	Cheese, ditto	0	4	0
Candles, per pound	0	1	6	Rum, per gallon	0	15	0
					-	15 30 13	

POPULATION.—Free men, 1379; free women, 497; children, 947; male Convicts, 2783; female Convicts, 221; total, 5827.

Land in cultivation.—Wheat, $12,966\frac{1}{2}$ acres; barley, $785\frac{3}{4}$ ditto; peas and beans, $471\frac{1}{2}$ ditto; potatoes, $716\frac{1}{2}$ ditto; total, $14,940\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

LIVE STOCK.—Horses, 550; horned cattle, 34,790; sheep, 182,468; pigs, 4864.

Vessels arrived 63. Sailed 47. Tonnage not stated.

MURDERS committed-3.

Criminals executed—19.

1822.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS, &c.

	£	S.	d.		£	S.	d.
Wheat, per bushel	0	10	0	Soap, per pound	0	1	4
				Butter, ditto			
Mutton, ditto	0	0	6	Tobacco, ditto	0	8	0
Pork, ditto	0	1	0	Hams, ditto	0	1	9
Sugar, ditto	0	0	9	Brandy, per gallon	1	1	0
Tea, ditto	0	5	0	Rum, ditto	0	16	0
				Ale, per dozen			

POPULATION.—Free men, 1561; free women, 732; children, 495, (county of Cornwall only); male Convicts, 4495; female ditto, 287; children of ditto, 114.

LAND IN CULTIVATION.—No return.

LIVE STOCK.—No return.

Vessels arrived 70-16,987 tons. Sailed 67-17,165 tons.

Murders committed—No return.

CRIMINALS EXECUTED—No return.

Imports valued at £22,214 5s. 2d. No duties on British goods. There were duties levied on goods from India, Batavia, and Mauritius.

Exports valued at £57,928 18s.

NATURE OF EXPORTS.—61,072 bushels wheat, 724 tuns oil, 3 tons whalefins, 4370 seal skins, 3106 kangaroo skins, 150 hides, 7 logs of pine, 2 logs of beefwood, 1000 bushels of salt, 157,467 pounds wool, 1500 horses.

Customs' Duties collected £22,001–16s.; Spirit and Wine Licences, and Fees and Fines, £1480–8s. 9d.

Ordinary and fixed expenses of Government, £13,232 12s. 6d.; disbursements on account of Civil Services, £10,087 0s. 1d.; disbursements for miscellaneous Civil Services, £1047 19s. 6d.; total, £24,367 12s. 1d.

Churches erected 2.

Vessel built 1.

Ross Bridge completed.

The Actaon wrecked on a reef in D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS.*

	£	S.	d.		£	S.	d.
Wheat, per bushel	0	7	0	Soap, per pound	0	1	0
Barley, ditto				Butter, ditto			
Beef, per pound	0	0	6	Tobacco, ditto			
				Hams, ditto	0	1	6
				Cheese, ditto			
				Starch, ditto			
				Eggs, per dozen			
Candles, ditto	0	1	6	00.1			

POPULATION.—Free men, 1996; free women, 947; children, 1576; male Convicts, 4854; female Convicts, 432; children of ditto, 204; total, 10,009.

LAND IN CULTIVATION—No returns.

LIVE STOCK—No returns.

Vessels arrived 57—Tonnage 17,988. Sailed 52—Tonnage 16,730.

Murders committed—No return.

CRIMINALS EXECUTED—No return.

Imports valued at £15,740 2s. 2d.

Exports valued at £24,734 10s.

Nature of exports.—55,522 bushels wheat, 49 bushels barley, 50 tons potatoes, 226 casks oil, 52 packages whalebone, 24 casks seal skins, 20 dry ditto, 600 dry kangaroo skins, 50 logs pine, 50 logs cedar, 794 bales of wool, 17,160 pounds of wool, 300 pounds tallow.

Customs' Duties collected—£20,389 11s. $10\frac{1}{2}d$.

Wine and Spirit Licences, Fines and Fees—£1681 9s. 6d.

Ordinary and Fixed Expenses of Government—£24,434 12s. 1014d.

Breweries in the Colony 5. Licence-fee £25.

Market opened on Wharf, Hobart Town.

Ex-Governor Davey died in May.